

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03221 201328Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 /012 W

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R 201101Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3918

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SAIGON 3221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, VS (DOLAN, EDWARD, SEIDL, ROBERT AND
MILLER, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DEATH DOLAN, SEIDL AND MILLER

REF: STATE 056248 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY VIENTIANE MAY WISH TO PASS THE
FOLLOWING LETTER DATED MARCH 19 FROM AIR VIETNAM TO
AMBASSADOR MARTIN TO THE FAMILIES OF MR. EDWARD DOLAN,
MR. ROBERT SEIDL, AND MR. GEORGE MILLER:

2. EXCELLENCY, WE ARE DEEPLY MOVED TO LEARN THAT MR.
DOLAN EDWARD, MR. SEIDL R., MR. G. MILLER OF AMERICAN
NATIONALITY, WERE AMONG THE PASSENGERS OF OUR DC4 FLIGHT
THAT CRASHED NEAR PLEIKU ON MARCH 12, 1975 ON THE WAY
FROM VIENTIANE TO SAIGON.

3. AT FIRST REPORT OF THE ACCIDENT WE HAD IMMEDIATELY
NOTIFIED THE RELATIVES OF SAID PASSENGERS AND URGENTLY
REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THAT
OF THE VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE AS WELL AS OTHER MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN CENTRAL AGENCIES FOR AN ALL OUT SEARCH AND
RESCUE OPERATION.

4. RECONNAISSANCE PLANES HAD LOCATED THE MISSING PLANE
A FEW KILOMETERS FROM THANH AN VILLAGE ON MARCH 13.
HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE OF THE
VIET-CONG AND THE FIERCE FIGHTING GOING ON IN THE VICINITY
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03221 201328Z

OF THE SITE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH IT EITHER BY AIR

OR ROAD.

5. A TEAM OF EXPERTS AND OFFICIALS FROM THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION AND AIR VIETNAM HAS BEEN IN PLEIKU READY TO RUSH TO THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT AS SOON AS THE ARMED FORCES SUCCEED IN CLEARING ACCESS TO THAT AREA.

6. WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS AND HAVE GIVEN THEM ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT.

7. WE WOULD RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOU, EXCELLENCY, TO CONVEY TO THE FAMILIES OF MESSRS. DOLAN EDWARD, SEIDL R., G. MILLER OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL KEEP ON TRYING EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST THE VICTIMS AND THEIR ANXIOUS GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILIES.

8. NATURALLY WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY NEW TURN IN OUR SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION. FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL US AT AIR VIETNAM, 27B PHAN-DINH-PHUNG SAIGON (MR. DANG-MEO-TY, PHONE 99.764 OR MR. CHUNG-TOT PHONE 99.910 EXT. 81).

9. WITH OUR RENEWED SYMPATHY, WE BEG TO REMAIN, EXCELLENCY, YOURS RESPECTFULLY, NGUYEN TAN TRUNG, CHAIRMAN-PRESIDENT.
LEHMANN

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